(II) विशिष्टीकृत परिवहन इकाइयों की पूर्व प्रशीतन/शीतागार सुविधाओं की स्थापना जैसी बुनियादी सुविधाओं के विकास के लिए निर्यातकों/उत्पादकों/सहकारी समितियों को वित्तीय सहायता उपलब्ध कराना;

(III) उन्नत पैकेजिंग और गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण के सुदृढ़ीकरण के लिए वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करना;

(IV) क्रेता-विक्रेता बैठकों और अंतर्राष्ट्रीय मेलों, पुष्प प्रदर्शनों और प्रदर्शनियों में सहभागिता करने जैसे संवर्धनात्मक अभियानों की व्यवस्था करना;

(V) पुष्पोत्पाद और बागवानी उत्पादों जैसी नष्ट होने वाली मदों के निर्यात संचालन के लिए विभिन्न अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तनों पर एकीकृत कार्गो संचालन और शीतागारों की सुविधाओं की स्थापना करना/हाल ही में ऐसी सुविधा इन्दिरा गांधी अंतर्राष्ट्रीय विमान पत्तन, नई दिल्ली पद शुरू की गयी है;

(VI) निर्यात उत्पादन, गुणवत्ता नियंत्रण, पैकेजिंग, परिवहन आदि के लिए किसानों को प्रशिक्षण देने सहित व्यापार और उद्योग जगत को तकनीकी सलाहकार सेवाएं और अन्य सहायता सेवाएं प्रदान करना।

Import of Wheat

4318. SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of wheat imported during the current financial year, till date;

(b) the expenditure incurred on this so far;

(c) the names of the countries from where the wheat has been imported;

(d) the total quantity of wheat demanded by States including Tripura and Gujarat for their monthly PDS; and

(e) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of wheat in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) to (c) STC contracted for purchase of 15 lakh tonnes of wheat on Government account from Australia on FOB basis @ US $ 142.50 per tonne during 1998-99.

(d) The Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies have intimated that under Targeted Public Distribution System which was launched from June, 1997, the monthly quota of wheat and rice to all States/UTs (Union Territories) has been fixed, so as to provide foodgrains to the population living below the poverty line @ 10 Kg. per family per month at specially subsidised rates. The Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies have also intimated that Transitory allocation of foodgrains for population above the poverty line is also being made which has been fixed on the basis of past lifting of foodgrains in States/UTs.

(e) No, Sir. The Deptt. of Food & Civil Supplies have intimated that the production of wheat in 1997-98 is estimated at 66.38 million tonnes as against 69.27 million tonnes in 1996-97 and 62.10 million tonnes in 1995-96. Moreover, the stock of wheat in the Central Pool as on 1st July, 1998 is 164.76 lakh tonnes against a buffer form of 131 lakh tonnes.

औद्योगिक संस्थानों में कर्मचारी

4319. श्री बलबन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:
श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकारी क्षेत्र के अधीन औद्योगिक संस्थानों में कर्मचारियों की कुल अनुमानित संख्या लगभग 21 लाख है;

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में सरकार का वास्तविक अनुमान क्या है;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने इन संस्थानों में आवश्यकता से अधिक कर्मचारी होने के संबंध में कोई अनुमान लगाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो अधिशेष कर्मचारियों की संख्या के संबंध में क्या अनुमान है?

उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री सुखबीर सिंह बादल): (क) और (ख) 31-3-1997 की स्थिति के अनुसार, केन्द्रीय सरकारी क्षेत्र में कर्मचारियों की संख्या 20.2 लाख है।

(ग) और (घ) सरकार ने सरकारी उपक्रमों में अधिशेष कर्मचारियों का कोई सर्वेक्षण नहीं किया है। सरकारी उपक्रमों में अधिशेष कर्मचारियों की संख्या तत्काल उपलब्ध नहीं है।

Impact of reduction in import tariff on domestic industry

4320. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the negative impact of the steep reduction in import tariff on project imports and finished products on the domestic industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are considering a proposal to bring about some kind of legislation to protect the domestic industry; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): (a) and (b) Reduction in import tariff on project imports and finished products is a part of the package of economic reforms which was started by the Government in 1991. The impact of tariff reduction per se on industrial production is not negative. Growth of industrial production depends on a number of factors both domestic and external. Tariff reduction is only one of the factors impinging on industrial profitability and it also has a beneficial effect because imported inputs also become cheaper.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal to bring about legislation to protect domestic industry. In fact economic reforms and consequent deregulation in industry is expected to buoy up the domestic industry in the long run through improvement in productivity and allocative efficiency.

Jute and Coir industry

4321. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the details of the steps taken by Government for the promotion and modernisation of jute and coir industries in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI SIKANDER BAKHT): The Government of India have taken following main steps for the promotion and modernisation of Jute and Coir Industries in the country.

Jute Industry

(a) Introduced Jute Modernisation Fund Scheme (JMFS) and special Jute Development Fund Scheme with a corpus of Rs. 150 crores and Rs. 100 crores respectively. In replacement of JMFS, Jute Entrepreneurs Assistance scheme has been introduced from 1.4.1995.

(b) Under liberalised import policy, jute mills can now freely import their modern machinery directly under the open general licence with normal import duty.

(c) Customs duty on jute mill machinery has been reduced gradually. Again, under export promotion, capital goods scheme, jute mills have been allowed to import machinery at concessional import duty with corresponding export obligation for jute goods.

(d) With financial assistance from Government and UNDP, the IJMA alongwith research associations and domestic machinery manufacturers have taken up a project to develop suitable machinery in the country for modernisation of the jute industry.

Coir Industry

The Government of India have taken several steps through the Coir Board for the promotion and modernisation of Coir Industry in the country. Substantial Plan and non-Plan funds to the Coir Board are being provided by the Government on an increasing basis year after year particularly during the last 2-3 years. Plan outlay during IXth Plan for the Coir sector has been stepped up manifolds by the Government. Assistance is also being provided to the States under the Integrated Coir Development Programme for promoting growth and development of the Coir Industry in an integrated manner.

Following are main activities being implemented by the Coir Board for the promotion and modernisation of the Coir Industry:—

(a) Undertaking scientific, technological and economic research and development activities.
(b) Development of new products and novel designs.
(c) Publicity for promotion of exports and internal sales.
(d) Marketing of coir and coir products in India and abroad.
(e) Preventing unfair competition amongst producers and exporters.
(f) Carrying out training activities for grooming skills etc.
(g) Assisting in setting up of factories for the manufacture of products.
(h) Promoting cooperative organisations among producers of husks, coir fibre, coir yarn and manufacturers of coir products.
(i) Ensuring remunerative returns to producers and manufacturers.